

Dear Members of the Human Services Committee of Connecticut General Assembly:

My name is Micaela Cervantes and I am a resident of New Haven and an immigrant.

I stand in support of S.B. 284: AN ACT INCREASING THE AGE FROM EIGHT TO EIGHTEEN YEARS FOR AN INCOME-ELIGIBLE PERSON TO OBTAIN MEDICAL ASSISTANCE REGARDLESS OF IMMIGRATION STATUS. Expanding access to HUSKY up to age 18 regardless of immigration status is an important step in ensuring our immigrant community has access to the healthcare we need. But our work doesn't end with expanding access up to age 18; we need to open access to HUSKY and healthcare to all immigrants of any age, including parents and adults.

I am the mother of two children that are 5 months and 10 years old. I know that our opinions count a lot and I think it is good that we support this cause so that the children can have medical service and thus as parents we are not looking for ways to help our children with medical service. Sometimes we as parents can't afford the medical costs and that's why sometimes we don't take our children to get checked. Thanks to all the people who support us so that we can have health insurance. However, discrimination and disparity continue to prevent millions of children from getting health insurance each year just because they are immigrants or the children of immigrants.

I support S.B. 284 and I ask the committee to support and pass this legislation. Looking forward, I ask the committee to work towards opening access to all immigrants regardless of age.